

## Teacher Master

### Atlantic Sturgeon

*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*

<b>Diet:</b>	bottom invertebrates including mussels, worms, and shrimps
<b>Average Lifespan:</b>	up to 60 years in the wild
<b>Size:</b>	4.25 meters (14 feet) max.
<b>Weight:</b>	to 360 kilograms (800 lbs)

Atlantic sturgeon are found in the following NERRS Reserves: Wells (ME), Great Bay (NH), Waquoit Bay (MA), Narragansett Bay (RI), Hudson River (NY), Jacques Cousteau (NJ), Delaware, Chesapeake Bay (MD and VA), North Carolina, N. Inlet-Winyah (SC), ACE Basin (SC), Sapelo Island (GA), and Guano Tolomato Matanzas (FL).

Atlantic sturgeon respond to the following water quality factors when moving from the ocean into estuaries to spawn:

<b>Water Temperature:</b>	between 13°C and 17°C night and day
<b>Turbidity:</b>	low
<b>Water Flow:</b>	½ to 1 meter per second
<b>Salinity:</b>	33 parts per 1000
<b>Dissolved Oxygen:</b>	high (above 3.5 mg/L, and ideally above 5mg/L)

Adapted from the Atlantic Sturgeon fact sheet, developed by Dwayne Meadows, Ph.D., Species of Concern National Program Coordinator, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Other water parameters courtesy of Dr. Fred P. Binkowski, Senior Scientist, Great Lakes Water Institute.

Photo: University of Maine.

